

8 June 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence  
FROM :   
SUBJECT : Idea Panels

1. Whatever device you decide to use to implement the ideas you are getting from these panels, I think it would be productive to continue them for the time being. They are useful in that they are:

- ° surfacing concerns
- ° generating useful ideas
- ° exposing you to more people at the working level (and them to you)
- ° forcing young officers to focus on the bigger problems
- ° serving as an excellent device to spread your policies/ thoughts verbally (establishing a constituency)

2. Jack Blake and I have discussed other groupings which might prove interesting. They include:

- ° Females
- ° Minorities
- ° Retirees (within the past year) -
  - larger perspective?
  - less time sensitive?
- ° Midcareer course students -
  - across directorate lines
  - occasion to broaden thinking on issues
  - groups already exist so task is simple
  - would focus better your meeting with them

*Secretariat level groups*  
*Custodial " "*

- ° Domestic offices in the US
  - easiest/least expensive way for you to sample extra-Agency waters
  - less DC oriented concerns
  - insights on academic/business contacts, etc.?
- ° Overseas stations (already recommended that these be done prior to your September trip so they would be ready to spend an hour with you on the subject during your visit. In a large station like London there are three distinct and geographically separated groups which could be tapped: Embassy, FBIS, and Communications. Each has its own problems/perspective.

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3. Up to this point, [ ] and I have shared the responsibility of setting up, briefing, and acting as advisor to the groups you've seen. Considering that we both have other chores, the partnership approach has been very convenient. From a personal point of view it has permitted me to enlarge my circle of Agency acquaintances and get the feel of the Agency better. I would like to continue unless time away from other things you want me to do or for other reasons you would prefer otherwise. Whether or not I continue actively in this role, I recommend you retain Tom rather than turning the project over to anyone new. Tom is a bright and energetic young officer who understands what you want, is diplomatic yet not reticent to speak up when necessary, and has good judgment.

*No*  
*Yes*

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Very respectfully,

[ ]